I: Mary Morourelatos

Mary: Mary Moruelatos Patrieti

I: When were you born?
Mary: Again // February 7 1926

I: And that makes you how old? 87?

Mary: 87 don't say it

I: When was the first time you went back to Greece?

Mary: You know I went before

I: Well you were born in Rhode Island

Mary: No, I was five years old when the depression

I: In Greece

Mary : uhuhh

I: So you went back when you were five

Mary: Yes, I was five years old yes

I: And then

Mary: I went back to the United States in1938

I: How old were you?

Mary: i dont know 11 or 12

I: Why did you stay in Greece for that long

Mary: Because there was a depression in the United States, and my father send us there because we had income their from properties

I: And then you went to school

Mary: and then I went t school

I: And then you came back to America

Mary: And then the war came in 1940 in Greece// my father had died in 1938

I: Really that young?

Mary: yes, He was in the hospital for 5 months from his kidneys

I: What was your dad's name?

Mary: Younny piteronn patretit(?) 2:35 you can keep this for your records

I: Yes, so how was in Greece during the war since you were stuck there

Mary: when I was young?

I: In 1940

Mary; in 1940 they decreed war

I: Who's they?

Mary: Germans, and I was in lived in Uffar (? 3:13) where we had a duplex that next to Parys (?) We had a beautiful home there a duplex, my mother had a brother that died in 1935 and he was a judge but he had a friend which my mother met in 1941 marred him.

I: Okay

Mary: and I didn't like him haha, so we, the war I saw a lot of bad things allot of killing from 12 years old to 19. It was a very bad thing there was a big starvation but this husband of my mother they had this kind of group were you could get food there was no food at all people were dying they were passing out in the road from starvation. German if a child if a boy sold a loaf f bread they would crush his head with there boots. So it was a very terrible situation and those were y worse years when I was a teenager it taught me a lot. One time I went to help people the English they were English also in Greece. I had to go the embassy in Athens so they put in in the truck and we went t embassy I don't remember if I wanted some papers but the bullets were going through the door and I was there. I came back okay I had seen things they threw bombs and people were in the basement and I was very curios so I walked over there you know indepedent Mary an people were all blue and swollen from cant breath oxygen

I: Oh yea

Mary: and that picture has never gotten out of my head. In 1945 we took our second boat to the United States Greece halm(? 6:30) No i mean 1954 like I met your father I mean your grandfather

I: Didn't you come back before. In 1941 during the war you came back before you went back and met papu didn't you come back again?

Mary: In 19 umm I came back I told you the war things

I: So you came back after the war

Mary: After the war

I: You came in America in what year

MARY: With papu oh no no no true I don't want to confuse you e came back in 1945 and in that boat there was a lot of young people our age plus Maria Calus (? 7:30)

I: Who's that?

Mary: That's a big singer, a big singer she made up with Omasus (? 7:45)

I: i dont know

Mary: she was just like peasant but she did not mix with any of us the youth

I: Okay when you came back to the US was when you went to Columbus?

Mary: Then I stayed in New York, oh no I went to New Port and we didn't stay very long I use to baby sit for an admiral their children and then we die to go to New York because Helen was going to go to Barnol (? 8:25) and the I went here and worked and I went to Columbia and worked for the publishers and went to school and I was active with Artdox faith with doctor Florski (8:45) well known religion

I: What was your degree in Columbia

Mary: Sociology, I was always interested in people. Does it show?

I: Yes, okay so then you went back to Greece for the summer and that was when you met papu

Mary: We went after 10 years, we went to Greece

I: and how old were you're

Mary At first I didn't want to go

I: How old were you

Mary: 27

I: Okay and you went for the summer

Mary: We went to (?) (9:56)

I: So you went for the summer?

Mary: Yes

I: And then

Mary: The tourism was very high we couldn't find reservations to come back and they found two reservation which my mother and Helen got to she was supposed to get doctor degree in Los Angeles which she never did and blames me so that week though I met your Papu and I asked and had a friend in the American express and he was working there he was a Greek American I knew him from new work and he changed my ticket and then again another week my ticket and then me and the girl my girlfriend her his mother an father papus mothers and father rented a (? 11:10) and we went to salon niki (11:15) they had a fiesta whatever all the merchize whatever you call it the agriculture. So we came back and I had no place to stay so I stayed with papus parents but by that time we knew we were going to get married

I: How long was that?

Mary; We met September 22 accruable went after the visit we walked down to the shoe went to a nigh club the three of us and its still there that night club, we were dancing I was wearing big (? 12:05) it was hot there so he said, "Why are you wearing"? And I said it's none of your business. He already telling me what to do, so then we walked back home and then after that it was arrange the salo nikki tri (?) 12:35 when we came back we communicate that I am going to marry hear, so it was big shock for them and then they no come and we see come and

I: So how long did you know papu

Mary: From Sept 22 to May November 28

I: What year?

Mary: He was so good looking and so attending Greek

I: Ha what year?

Mary: In 1950 wait a minute?

I: Mom was born 54, 55, or 56

Mary: 56 no 56 your mother was born 54// 54

I: Okay so then you got married in Greece

Mary: Yes I stayed one year in Greece one wonderful year in a small one bedroom apartment with his parents then we got, I called my parents if they can guarantee his immigrations you know (? 14:15) so I went back to my friend on American express he knew and older an that had money and e guaranteed so I said we are coming that day (? 14:32)

I: In Greece did you work?

: Mary No, I had money

I: Did Papu work?

Mary: Papu the made my wedding gown everything. I knew they couldn't afford but they did it

I: So then you came to America

Mary; When I came I was pregnant to your mother on the boat. Ad we went dancing and we got some prize because were the best dancers. Haha You knows your papu. My sister came to the ports to pick us up

I: In Ellis island

Mary; No No in New York City port

I: You went to New York port right away

Mary; Yes I was born in the United States. Then my stepfather was so upset that I took my own decision and got married that he got blind

I; For real

Mary: Yes I don't know for how long from nervousness upsetness thank god I was not next to him. You have an interesting story their kanny

I: okay so then how did you any papu make a living

Mary: I sta7ed a few days in new york with my mother and then We took a plane to there was an aunt and uncle in San Fransisco and then his brother the cousin of daddy's gave him a job

I in San Francisco?

Mary: Yes and we live uncles Harrys mother and law for a while

I: What was papu job that his cousin gave him

Mary: Book binder, he learned the English language and worked for an architectural firm

I: So he was bookbinding and then work for architectural firm

Mary: Yes and then he was going to Hield College

I: For what

Mary: For English

I: oh okay so what were you doing

Mary: oh by that time mina was born, so to get the interview I took my daughter hands and went to the interview with my husband to architectural office your mother was baby and they hired him with very little language. They all loved him too

I; okay and then after what was were your job

Mary: He continued the archititural and got an award there

I: What about you

Mary: Me I stayed home

I: Forever?

Mary: No I worked for (? 19:00) it was a clothing store on union square

I: Okay

Mary: Even when I had your mother but when I had john I stopped working mean while we were buying properties

I: When did you buy number one twin peaks

Mary; 1960 but we had other properties before, we bought very soon 5557 palm street

I: Do you still have those

Mary: No we refinanced after a year or two and bought another duplex across the street

I: Okay, Describe your feeling of the identity as an American? Do you feel American?

Mary: I use my Greek good standards and I combine the with American good standards

I: Okay describes your feelings in identity n relation to Greece or Greece cultures?

Mary: I am very prod of Greek culture, it should be carried on in this world without destroying it, there are people trying to destroy it or not acknowledge it.

I: what values from your Greek background would you like to pass on?

Mary: there is let me see how am I going to put it together first to be honest respect yourself and be kind to the people around you.

I: From your Greek background?

Mary: be friendly to the people around you be hospitable not only for the people but for you to it gives you a pleasure

I; okay, has your Greek religion played a big part in your life in church

Mary: yes it ha to me and my children it sow them a lot of the best road in life they know they belong some place their families is very important their religion is very important so you don't get confused in life what's what you get a direction in life. It is very good what your doing

I; is there anything else you want to say? I don't know special tradition that you did with your kids or when you were little or anything?

Mary: well when I got married I loved my husbands a lot, and love and I still love him but that is a strength to bring a family especially with my first child it was mine and his and it was thrill and then the other two ha but umm my propose in life is to give the best I have and past it to my children and my family and that is still very important to me I told them to get the best with honesty and to look for the best when the Sheppard has lambs they all go together don't fallow the lamb keep away from them people will look not at all the lambs but at the one that stands out and this is my sample of my children of what they want to be and what they are. Do you understand the meaning of hat?

I; yes

Mary: I think I have told you too?

I: I don't know

Mary: yes, this is very important I mean you don't get recognized in a bunch of people in a group, when you sell your self individually it is much more important and you we were recognized in the church the good manners I gave to my children and a lot of people

around us and in the public because I had a lot of people in the public In the apartments are you happy?

I; Anything else are you done?

Mary: I love my children and my family it is very important that's why I'm 87 alive and kicking

I; haha okay